

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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O 020916Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9181

S E C R E T ROME 12411

NODIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELLE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS# PFOR
SUBJ: JOSHUA NKOMO'S VISIT TO EUROPE, SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN

REF: ROME 12395

1. NDLOVU CALLED AT EMBASSY THIS MORNING TO REPORT THAT HE HAD OBTAINED RESERVATIONS FOR FLIGHT TO JIDDA ON AUGUST 4. THE DELEGATION WILL DEPART ROME AUGUST 4 VIA ALITALIA FOR ATHENS AND THEN CHANGE TO AIR FRANCE FOR THE FLIGHT FROM ATHENS TO JIDDA. HE DID NOT KNOW EXACT ARRIVAL TIME.

2. (#) EMBASSY SHOULD NOT RPT
NOT MEET GROUP ON ARRIVAL BUT DELEGATION WILL CONTACT THE EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY. NKOMO HAS REQUESTED THAT THE U.S. EMBASSIES IN JIDDA AND TEHRAN RESERVE HOTEL SPACE AND BE PREPARED TO PAY FOR THESE ACCOMMODATIONS.

3. IN VIEW OF COMPLICATED SAUDI VISA PROCEDURES WHICH REQUIRE AN OFFICIAL LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR PRIVATE TRAVELERS, NDLOVU SUGGESTED THAT WE MAKE CERTAIN THAT SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAS INSTRUCTED SAUDI EMBASSY IN ROME TO ISSUE VISAS BEFORE NDLOV OR THIS EMBASSY APPROACHES LOCAL SAUDI REPRESENTATIVES. (NKOMO HAS STRESSED, ACCORDING TO NDLOCU, THAT U.S. REMAIN VERY MUCH IN THE BACKGROUND ON THESE ARRANGEMENTS.) ACCORDINGLY, DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO OBTAIN

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ASSURANCES OF SAUDIS THAT VISAS WILL BE ISSUED AUGUST 3 TO

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION.

1. JOSHUA NKOMO
2. AMON JIRIRA
3. CLEMENT MUCHACHI
4. EDWARD NDLOVU
5. THOKO SIZIBA (MISS)

NDLOVU INDICATED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL THE DELEGATION MEMBERS HAVE NECESSARY INNOCULATIONS: SMALLPOX, CHOLERA AND YELLOW FEVER, BUT THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN PHOTOGRAPHS. THIS REQUIREMENT MAY NEED TO BE WAIVED.

4. PLEASE GIVE US RESPONSE SOONEST, BEFORE COB TODAY
LOCAL TIME IF POSSIBLE. VOLPE

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

SECRET

NNN

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